
Title: Chapter Four, Part 2

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Fourth Chapter: Shattered
Legacy

Lathiari and Kyrnia seemingly acted entirely on their own motives, engendered by the traumatic loss of their mother long before, but they too were assisted with information from the Enchantress. After the pair were driven from their tower in the environs of Yew, adventurers discovered there a magical device created from the same material of which the shrines were constructed. Whereas the shrines are well known for resurrecting those who have met a violent death, with Minax's help the Sage Humboldtliches had corrupted the stone so as to raise the dead who had died naturally and peacefully, a method Minax herself would later apply. Sage Humboldt charged adventurers to find any remaining corrupted shrinestone and bring it to him to be hidden.

While the sage researched a way to put an end to the liches, Lathiari and Kyrnia made an assault upon Trinsic. Lord Blackthorn took it upon himself to rally defenders and meet them, but in the ensuing battle, the

liches opened a red
moongate and forced Lord
Blackthorn to enter.
Some claimed in the
following days to see
Lord Blackthorn at
various places in the land
running into red
moongates as soon as he
was spotted, but no
explanation has been
offered for these
sightings. From that time,
Lord Blackthorn was not
seen for many months.
Sage Humboldt at last
devised a way to destroy
Lathiari and Kyrnia. He
did this by consuming
their very hearts, the
blackness of which
consumed his own life
also. Only a potion that
drew its power from the
Bell of Courage itself
allowed him to survive
long enough to eat the
hearts entirely. The
sage's passing was
mourned by many in
Britannia.

For a time, evil in
Britannia was faceless
and unknown, but its
continuing presence was
revealed by the theft of
the relics of Mondain
from Britain's Counselor
hall. Crawworth
immediately declared the
theft to be an act of
the Zog Cabal, but Sage
Winslow (who succeeded
Sage Humboldt) suggested
a re-examination of the
facts, since as yet the
only evidence for the
Cabal's existence was the
raving of one madman at
Hartham's wake. More
evidence appeared in the
form of a notebook
salvaged from a burning
ship off the coast of
Vesper. The book bore
the title "Zog Cabal," but
its contents were

indecipherable. The notebook was transported to Crawworth in Trinsic, and Winslow also traveled to Trinsic to examine the book himself when it arrived.

Unknown to all, and through adventures that cannot be guessed, Sage Winslow met his end in the dungeon Shame sometime after his arrival in Trinsic. His fate was not uncovered until many months after, for his identity was assumed by the Cabalist and Follower of Armageddon, Miron Vehl. With none the wiser, Vehl used Winslow's position as a cover for his activities.

Finding no means to comprehend the strange glyphs in the notebook, Crawworth left the matter to Winslow and directed his attentions to Vesper, where the book's writer may have been at some time. On the north bridge from Vesper, Crawworth was abducted and held for many days by mercenary orcs. His rescuers found evidence that the Cabal was responsible.

What followed was the greatest accomplishment of the Followers of Armageddon and their most famous act in Britannia. They gained access to all the knowledge left in Mondain's brain, which they had indeed stolen in Britain, and learned more about the nature of the Gem of Immortality than they had ever hoped. No one can guess at the

thoughts of such a man
as Mondain, or what the
Followers' ultimate
objective might have been.

As the thoughts of the
four Followers of
Armageddon turned back
to Ilshenar, they began to
discard servants whose
usefulness had declined.
The ranks of the Cabal
from that point began to
thin. Some cabalists
believed the Followers'
spell was a failed
attempt at casting
Armageddon and lost faith
in their leaders. Others
became fearful that life
might actually be wiped
out and wanted no more
part of it. The Followers'
next step was to gather
the blackrock caches and
consult with the dark
wisps.

As a consequence
of the terrible power of
Mondain's mind even in
death, powerful
earthquakes rocked the
world after the Followers'
ritual. Hundreds of
elementals were released
at the site where the
spell was cast, in the
mountains north of Minoc.
In the aftermath of the
earthquakes, new passages
were discovered under the
earth. The old ways to
Ambrosia had been
reopened. Lord British
assigned Crawworth to
lead an expedition and
survey the new land.
Crawworth's expedition
made contact with the
people of Delucia and
encountered the Terathan
and Ophidian races, to
whom the expeditioners
lost their lives.

Such a visible and
dramatic action by the
Zog Cabal demanded that

new efforts be directed towards revealing this still-mysterious organization. Sir Duquelle offered a sizable reward and Winslow in Prison the thanks of Lord British himself for the live capture of a Cabalist, so that they might reveal much-needed information. Duquelle did discover valuable information, but paid for it with his life. . Sir Geoffery assumed leadership of the investigation and first pursued the matter of Duquelle's death. Silencing Duquelle proved to be a misstep for the Followers of Armageddon, as the act left clues very damaging to their cause. They were forced to abandon their hideout in Vesper, and Winslow was jailed on suspicion of involvement. Most critically, the existence of the blackrock caches was discovered, and the locations were quickly put under constant guard. Evidence was also discovered insinuating that Julia the Tinker was involved with the Followers of Armageddon, and she was placed under house arrest. Investigation of Winslow's activities revealed that he had been researching wisps and had prompted Mariah the Mage to undertake research on blackrock. No evidence was discovered of wrongdoing on the part of Winslow, and so after some time he was released.

With the constant vigilance of guardsmen at the known blackrock caches, several Followers of Armageddon

were apprehended and imprisoned in Serpent's Hold. However, by the time Nystul devised a way to open the caches' magically locked chests and remove the blackrock from the Followers' reach, they had already recovered a substantial amount. As the captured Followers of Armageddon were moved from Serpent's Hold to Yew for an eventual trial, one was freed by collaborators. Associates of Gruzak, the notorious half-orcish assassin, secretly poisoned the remaining Follower of Armageddon in custody. The poison was obscure, but a cure was concocted from especially rare and potent forms of garlic, ginseng, and nightshade.

(Cont. in Part 3)